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INFORMATION REPORT
CONFIDENTIAL

CD NO

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TELLOFAX 9

COUNTRY Malaya/Indonesia

DATE DISTR 23 OCT 51

SUBJECT Smuggling Activities on Junks Traveling Between
Malaya and Sumatra

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1. Diesel engine junks, the smallest of which carry a four-man crew, are smuggling rubber and copra from Sumatra to Malaya in order to avoid paying high export duties. On return trips to Sumatra, these junks carry guns and ammunition, if they can be obtained, and other goods which are in demand in Sumatra.
2. Recently, the junks have transported persons leaving Malaya in order to avoid the Federation manpower conscription. An unidentified Singapore firm allegedly has furnished these men with identity cards for Sumatra.¹ Most of the draft evaders have signed on the junks as sailors; however, they intend to remain in Sumatra on arrival. Javanese are entering the Federation of Malaya, but are not doing so on Chinese junks, as the Chinese mistrust them.²
3. Owners of the larger junks reportedly realize (Straits) \$50,000 profit for two trips.³ Many of the shippers bribe customs officials in Sumatra, but the Indonesian Navy does not cooperate in the intrigue, and consequently the shippers fear discovery by the Navy.
4. Most of the junks are armed in order to prevent piracy by other junks which travel alongside and hijack cargoes. Often such seizures are carried out with the aid of a man planted aboard the junk to be hijacked.
5. In Malaya, smugglers use the ports of Kuala Kurau (100-27; 5-00) between Taiping and Penang, and Matang (100-40; 4-49) a town which is within seven miles of Taiping on a river which is navigable for larger junks.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

CLASSIFICATION

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